

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00969 110238Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 DIWY-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /067 W

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P R 110215Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9465

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ, VN, VS

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND ADMITTING MIXED NORTH VIETNAM/VIET CONG DELEGATION

1. DURING APRIL 10 CALL BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR NGUYEN HOAN ON AMBASSADOR SELDEN, HOAN REPORTED THAT HE HAD JUST PROTESTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MFA AGAINST IMMINENT VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND OF A WOMEN'S DELEGATION CONSISTING OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM VIET CONG AND TWO FROM NORTH VIETNAM. HOAN PROTESTED INFORMALLY TO MFA SEVERAL DAYS AGO WHEN HE FIRST LEARNED FROM NEWSPAPERS THAT DELEGATION WOULD COME HERE HAS PART OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR OBSERVANCES. HE RECEIVED A POLITE HEARING AT THAT TIME BUT NO ASSURANCES THAT WOMEN WOULD NOT COME. HOAN HAD BEEN CALLED TO MFA EARLIER ON APRIL 10 AND INFORMED THAT PRIME MINISTER ROWLING HAD DECIDED TO ADMIT DELEGATION.

2. HOAN SAID HE MADE STRONG VERBAL PROTEST TO DEPUTY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NORRISH AND LATER DELIVERED PROTEST NOTE AGAINST VISIT ON GROUNDS THAT IT CONSTITUTED AN UN-FRIENDLY GESTURE TOWARDS SOUTH VIETNAM AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. NORRISH ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PERSUADE HOAN THAT NO POLITICAL OVERTONES SHOULD BE READ INTO VISIT. WOMEN WERE SAID BY NORRISH TO BE ON VISIT TO  
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 00969 110238Z

AUSTRALIA AND THEIR TRAVEL IN NEW ZEALAND SHOULD BE SEEN IN

CONTEXT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. NORRISH TOLD HOAN THAT HE SAW NO PROSPECT PRIME MINISTER ROWLING COULD BE INDUCED TO CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT VISIT.

3. HOAN INQUIRED IF THIS EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO INTERCEDE WITH GNZ AGAINST VISIT. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS QUESTION IN HIS MIND ABOUT PROPRIETY OF OUR DOING SO. IN ANY CASE, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD GNZ WOULD CHANGE ITS MIND. WE WERE DEEPLY SYMPATHETIC TO HOAN'S SITUATION. HOWEVER, WE FELT THAT WE COULD NOT APPROACH GNZ UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY DEPARTMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.

5. COMMENT: GNZ COULD HARDLY BELIEVE ITS OWN ASSERTION THAT VISIT OF NORTH VIETNAM/ VIET CONG GROUP AT THIS TIME HAS NO POLITICAL OVERTONES. BUT RULING LABOUR PARTY FACES ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH WHEN PRIME MINISTER ROWLING'S MAIN GOAL WILL BE TO UNITE PARTY RANKS FOR ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN THIS FALL. HE AND GNZ APPARENTLY FEEL THAT THIS REQUIRES PROPITIATING NEUTRALIST LEFT WING OF PARTY. THUS, AMBASSADOR HOAN IS GETTING SMALL COMFORT FROM GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME AND IS UNLIKELY TO RECEIVE ANY BETTER TREATMENT AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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